

We claim:

1. A moisture sensing system for use on a bale lifting vehicle, comprising:

one or more bale penetrating rods mounted to said vehicle, for insertion into a bale of product;

one or more moisture sensing probes, attached to said one or more bale penetrating rods, each probe with spaced apart electrodes for moisture sensing contact with a product in bale form;

a sensor readout mounted on said vehicle in a position visible to a vehicle driver;

wherein said bale penetrating probes penetrate said bale and take a moisture reading when said bale lifting vehicle moves adjacent a bale, and a driver of said can read the moisture of said bale while driving said vehicle.

2. The moisture sensing system of claim 1 in which said bale penetrating rods are the rods normally used by the vehicle to lift and move said bales, and said moisture sensing probes are mounted on existing rods for use with the moisture sensing system.

3. The moisture sensing system of claim 1 in which the moisture sensing probes are configured to test the moisture in the center of the bale of hay.

4. The moisture sensing system of claim 1 in which said moisture sensing probes are capable of sensing moisture as the probe is inserted into the bale, and give one or more moisture readings of the path of insertion of the probe.
5. The moisture sensing system of claim 1 in which a plurality of sensors are present, and used to test moisture at several areas of the bale.
6. The moisture sensing system of claim 5 which includes a moisture indicator which is an average of the readings of several moisture sensors.
7. The moisture sensing system of claim 1 which includes an alert set point, and an alarm, wherein a user may select a specific moisture content as the alert set point, and if any moisture readings exceed the alert set point, a signal notifies the user that the alert set point has been exceeded.
8. The moisture sensing system of claim 7 in which said alarm is a visual alarm.
9. The moisture sensing system of claim 7 in which said alarm is an audio alarm.

10. The moisture sensing system of claim 1 which includes a memory storage device, in which moisture readings of bales are recorded and saved, for later use.

11. The moisture sensing system of claim 10 which includes a printing device for printing out moisture content information of bales that have been sampled.

12. The moisture sensing system of claim 11 in which said printing device is configured to print a report of moisture of a selected lot of bales.

13. The moisture sensing system of claim 12 in which report lists an average moisture content for each bale in said selected lot of bales.

14. A moisture sensing system for use on a bale lifting vehicle, comprising:

one or more bale penetrating rods mounted to said vehicle, for insertion into a bale of product;

a plurality of moisture sensing probes, attached to said one or more bale penetrating rod each probe with spaced apart electrodes for moisture sensing contact with a product in bale form;

a sensor readout mounted on said vehicle in a position visible to a vehicle driver;

an alert set point, and an alarm, wherein a user may select a moisture content as the alert set point, and if any moisture readings exceed the alert set point, a signal notifies the user that the alert set point has been exceeded;

a memory storage device, in which moisture readings of bales are recorded and saved;

a printing device for printing out moisture content information of bales that have been sampled;

wherein said bale penetrating probes penetrate said bale and take a moisture reading when said bale lifting vehicle moves adjacent a bale, and a driver of said can read the moisture of said bale while driving said vehicle.